

DAILY NEWS

Several Americans Involved

U. S. to Prosecute Cuba Travel Ban Violators

By JACK STEELE
Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

Justice and State Department officials revealed today that the Government is preparing to prosecute several Americans who have traveled to Cuba by way of Mexico.

The State Department banned all unauthorized travel by United States citizens to Cuba on Jan. 16, 1961, soon after former President Eisenhower broke off diplomatic relations with Fidel Castro's communist-dominated regime.

The Justice and State Department officials also:

- Absolved the Mexican government of blame for extensive recent travel by Americans to Cuba by way of Mexico City in violation of the ban.

- Reported that the number of such trips has been cut in half in the last six months because Mexican officials have required that all Americans traveling to Cuba have United States passports.

NAMES OF 97

These disclosures came as Rep. William C. Cramer (R., Fla.) informed the House he had compiled the names of 97 United States citizens who had violated the travel ban by making trips to Cuba during one four-month period last year.

Rep. Cramer, who turned the names over to the House Un-American Activities Committee, said some were members of the communist party or communist front groups.

He also demanded that the Kennedy Administration move swiftly to cut off such travel by Americans to Cuba and prosecute those who have violated the travel ban.

Rep. Cramer accused the Administration of "showing lack of interest or concern over such trips while demanding that Latin American countries halt travel by their Nationals to the island.

Only one American, William C. Worthy, Negro reporter for the Baltimore Afro-American, has been prosecuted for making an unauthorized trip to Cuba.



REP. CRAMER

last August of re-entering the United States without a passport after a visit to Cuba and was given a three-month jail sentence. He has filed an appeal.

Justice Department officials said "loopholes" in the

travel control law, under which trips to Cuba are banned, made such prosecutions difficult.

Rep. Cramer today proposed a series of amendments to the law "to close the loopholes, if there are any."

Meanwhile, Administration sources said the Mexican government has been cooperating in a drive to cut down travel to Cuba by way of Mexico.

Twice-weekly flights from Mexico City to Havana now provide the only direct air link between Cuba and Western hemisphere countries.

Officials here confirmed reports from Mexico City that Mexican police for a year and a half have been photographing and compiling lists of all travelers to Cuba. These names and photos are available to the United States government.

Mexican officials also have demanded since last fall that all Americans who fly to Cuba from Mexico City have United States passports.